

**Village of Salado
Salado Municipal Building
301 North Stagecoach Road
Salado, Texas
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Aldermen
October 19, 2017**

The Board of Aldermen meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Mayor Skip Blancett.

Mayor Blancett gave the Invocation and the Aldermen led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

Board Members Present: Mayor Skip Blancett, Mayor Pro-tem Fred Brown, Aldermen Andy Jackson, Amber Dankert, Frank Coachman, and Michael McDougal.

Staff Present: Village Administrator Don Ferguson, City Secretary Cara McPartland, and Police Chief Rick Ashe

Citizens Communications

No citizen comments were heard.

1. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of minutes of the Regular Board of Aldermen meeting of October 5, 2017.
- B. Approval of the appointment of Curt Strong as the representative of the Salado Lions Club on the Pace Park Advisory Board.

Mayor Pro-tem Brown moved to approve Consent Agenda items, as presented. Alderman Jackson seconded. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

Sirena Fest organizers spoke on the outpouring of support for Sirena Fest and a \$4,000 donation was presented to Keep Salado Beautiful in appreciation of its community service. Keep Salado Beautiful representative Susan Terry expressed thanks for the donation, provided details on the upcoming Keep Salado Beautiful Clean-up event scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 2017, and encouraged participation. Sirena Fest organizers spoke on the exponential growth of Sirena Fest and recognized the efforts and support of all involved. Mayor Blancett thanked everyone for making Sirena Fest and all October events such a success.

2. Village Administrator's Reports

- Status report on wastewater issues (*existing Stagecoach plant and improvements, proposed wastewater system permit, rates and impact fees*).

Village Administrator Ferguson reported on last Saturday's Rotary Club Dodgeball Challenge and recognized Salado High School student and Board representative Kayla Manning and fellow students for their participation and assistance.

Village Administrator Ferguson reported bid notices for the treatment plant and collection system were issued this week and calls have been received from several local and out-of-town contractors. He noted specific dates/times for pre-bid conferences, bid submittal deadlines, bid openings, bid evaluations, and award of contracts. He advised permission has been received from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for replacement of the existing Stagecoach tank, if needed; however, replacement is not needed at this time.

- Status report on sales tax collections for the Village of Salado

Village Administrator Ferguson reported an approximate eighteen percent (18%) increase in collections from the same period last year and noted that numbers are strong heading into the Village's busy season.

- Status report on the possible installation of flood gates at low water crossings in Salado

Village Administrator Ferguson reported on the need to replace portable barricades with permanent flood swing gates at the Village's two low water crossings. He described the design and placement of the proposed gates and said possible grant funding may be available to fund the project.

- Status report on Keep Salado Beautiful Clean-up

Village Administrator Ferguson reported that the Village mailed out reminder notices on this event and commended Keep Salado Beautiful's Susan Terry for her dedication and organizational skills.

In addition, Alderman McDougal reported on contact made with Bell County Engineer Bryan Neaves on planned street improvements, including along Indian Trail and Stagecoach Circle. He noted that the Village is on track and doing well in keeping with its 5-year street improvement plan.

Alderman McDougal distributed a handout relating to community gardens and provided details on an offer by Dr. Jerry and Mrs. Elaine Herrick to obtain and donate land to the Village for a community garden. He spoke on the success of Belton's and Harker Height's community garden programs and stressed there would be no acquisition or maintenance costs to Village taxpayers, should the Board approve a similar program for Salado. He recommended that the Board consider this proposal. Brief discussion favored exploring a community garden for the Village. Alderman McDougal then played a country music song about change that he felt was descriptive of the Village.

Mayor Blancett thanked Alderman McDougal for work on street improvements and Alderman McDougal reiterated the beneficial arrangement with Bell County to provide labor for street improvements, with the Village being financially responsible only for the budgeted cost of

materials. Mayor Blancett and Alderman McDougal discussed recognition for Salado High School representative Kayla Manning, who was excused from tonight's meeting due to athletic practice, for her assistance in representing the Village of Salado in last weekend's Rotary Club Dodgeball Challenge.

3. Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Discuss and consider possible action approving a professional services agreement with the Bojorquez Law Firm, P.C. to provide city attorney/legal services for the Village of Salado. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson presented the draft agreement and noted one suggested change to the agreement that lowers the maximum annual rate adjustment from ten percent (10%) to five percent (5%). He advised there is not a specific term listed in the agreement and either party can terminate the agreement with written notice. He highlighted certain provisions, including the designation of Alan Bojorquez as the Village's primary attorney, with other lawyers to be used in support capacities to assist with routine research, writing, and reviewing services. Village Administrator Ferguson recommended an annual review of the agreement.

Mayor Pro-tem Brown stated Mr. Bojorquez needs to be aware that his attendance is required, when needed, and that if he does not comply with the agreement, termination could result. Alderman McDougal questioned the inclusion of a maximum 5% annual rate adjustment in the agreement and did not feel it should be guaranteed, whether customary or not. Discussion included examples of handling fees and out-of-pocket expenses mentioned in the agreement. Village Administrator Ferguson advised that billing will be carefully reviewed for such potential charges.

Alderman Coachman moved to approve the agreement, as presented, including an annual fiscal year review, and a maximum 5% annual rate adjustment. Mayor Pro-tem Brown seconded.

Discussion established that the 5% annual rate adjustment is the maximum amount the rate could be increased and favored requiring approval of any rate increase by the Board of Aldermen, with the understanding that no rate increase could exceed 5%.

Mayor Blancett requested an amendment to the previously stated motion. Mayor Pro-tem Brown moved to amend the previous motion to include the requirement that any rate increase be approved in advance by the Board of Aldermen, with no rate increase to exceed 5% in any given year. Alderman McDougal seconded the motion, as amended. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

For clarification purposes, Village Administrator restated the original motion, as amended. Mayor Blancett called for a vote. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- B. Discuss and consider possible action establishing the Village of Salado Goals and Priorities for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson reviewed the goal-setting and prioritization process and presented the list compiled as a result of the Board's August 1st workshop. He recommended changing the term "tier" to "priority."

Alderman Coachman moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Goals and Priorities, as presented, with the following amendments: removal of the number of votes and replacing the term "tier" with "priority." Mayor Pro-tem Brown seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0. Mayor Blancett thanked everyone for an excellent job in developing the list of goals and priorities.

- C. Discuss and consider possible action regarding the proposed route for the Christmas Stroll Parade. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson advised that Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) requires Board approval of the route, which will start near the intersection of Center Circle and Royal Street, travel down Royal Street, then turn north and continue down Main Street to the Civic Center. He noted that Salado Police will provide traffic control and recommended approval.

Alderman Jackson moved to approve the route, as presented. Alderman Coachman seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- D. Discuss and consider possible action regarding the appointment of one (1) member to the Planning and Zoning Commission. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson stated there is a need to fill the expired position held by Larry Wolff and that two applicants have asked to be considered. He advised the Board has the option to appoint one of the two candidates as a regular member and one as an alternate member. Alderman McDougal asked whether the Board can appoint both applicants and allow the Planning and Zoning Commission to decide who would fill the alternate position. Village Administrator Ferguson replied negatively.

Alderman McDougal moved to appoint Ronnie Tynes as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission and to appoint GeorgeAnn Valentine as an alternate member. Mayor Pro-tem Brown seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

4. Workshop

- A. Discuss and consider issues regarding a proposed ordinance of the Village of Salado, Texas, designating the governing body of the Village of Salado as the City Council and replacing the title of Board of Aldermen; changing alderman to council member; providing for repeal of ordinances in conflict herewith, providing for severability and providing an effective date. (*Mayor Pro-tem Fred Brown; no action will be taken on this item*)

Mayor Pro-tem Brown felt that being referred to as "council member" as opposed to "alderman" is less confusing to most people and lends additional credibility to the Village with other cities and Texas Municipal League.

Discussion established that there would not be any financial gains or costs to the Village, if the name change is approved. Village Administrator Ferguson advised this is a matter of the Board's preference. Discussion continued on state regulations pertaining to this issue, "council member" as the more commonly used term, and the Board's agreement to place this item for action on a future agenda.

- B. Discuss and consider issues relating to the provision of animal control services within the corporate limits of the Village of Salado. (*Village Administrator; no action will be taken on this item*)

Village Administrator Ferguson reviewed the current "per-animal" arrangement with Bell County that he stated can become very expensive. He cited recent examples of citizens bringing animals to the Village that point to the need for an option that would allow for pick-up of animals by Bell County animal control officers and/or drop-off of animals by residents at Bell County animal control facilities. He spoke on his discussion with Bell County Precinct Two Commissioner Tim Brown about the possibility of a flat-fee agreement for a specified number of animals that would include services to allow for pick-up/drop-off of animals. He advised that a flat fee agreement is easier to budget for than a "per animal" agreement.

Discussion addressed current Bell County animal control policies applicable to Salado, specifically signage at the Bell County Animal Shelter stating animals will not be accepted from the Village of Salado. Alderman Dankert said that Bell County has called for wildlife management assistance numerous times to request pick-ups of wild animals without offering payment for those services. The Board generally disagreed with the Bell County's policy to not take animals from the Village of Salado, whose residents pay Bell County taxes, as do others from outside of incorporated areas that receive animal control services. Village Administrator Ferguson stated that Commissioner Brown is looking into removal of the subject sign prohibiting drop-off of animals from Salado. Discussion included consideration of drafting an animal control services agreement with Bell County to be presented to the Board for possible action in November.

- C. Discuss and consider issues relating to the possible development of an over-the-road banner program within the Village of Salado. (*Village Administrator; no action will be taken on this item*)

Village Administrator Ferguson spoke of recent interest expressed in an over-the-road banner program and asked for the Board's input in pursuing such a program for Salado. Discussion generally favored exploring development of a program for future Board consideration.

- D. Discuss and consider issues relating to the assessment of penalty fees in cases where hotel occupancy taxes are paid late. (*Village Administrator; no action will be taken on this item*)

Village Administrator Ferguson said penalty fees are common for late payments and noted that staff cannot waive late fees. Discussion favored assessment of penalty fees for late payments, addressed current ordinance provisions, and identified the hotel in question that has failed to make timely payments on several occasions. Mayor Blancett did not favor setting a precedent by waiving penalty fees and said he would send the hotel owner a letter stating that penalties will not

be waived. Village Administrator Ferguson stated the importance of treating everyone consistently and fairly.

Adjournment


Hearing no further business, Mayor Blancett called the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Recorded by:

Cara McPartland

These minutes approved on the 16th of November 2017.

APPROVED:


Skip Blancett, Mayor

ATTEST:


Cara McPartland, City Secretary

